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JHB/PC/24366

4th January 1984

Dear Jack,

European Patent Application No. 82 300 635.8
PM-1033 (Hach 28247) - Our File: 24366

Further to my letter of 18th November 1983 I enclose a copy of the response and amendment filed in this case at the EPO.

I have again reviewed the main claim in relation to the prior art and confirm the examiner's objections. These should, however, be overcome by amendment along the lines proposed by the examiner and agreed at our meeting. However, I have not adopted precisely the simple language proposed by the examiner for reasons which I will explain.

The examiner asks that the mouthpiece core be defined as solid. This is to distinguish from the various structures having hollow mouthpieces, but the word "solid" can easily be misunderstood. My selected wording is rather longer but, I hope, clearer.

The examiner suggested that the claims should refer to grooves on the inside only of the tipping in order to distinguish from prior cigarettes having corrugated tippings. I can see the point of the objection, but it seems to me to be more significant that the groove is formed in the thickness of the sheet, rather than being unaccompanied by grooves on the outside. I have adopted wording correspondingly.

Finally, on rereading the claim I thought that the reference to the tipping "overlapping" the tobacco rod was not an expression that suited Fig. 9, where a non-filter cigarette has a continuous tobacco rod extending through the mouthpiece region. I have therefore made a further change in the wording in the early part of the claim.

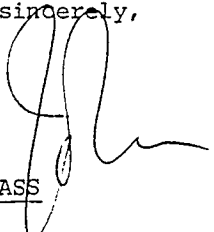
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In the remaining claims, I have made changes which bring the terminology into line with the revised claim 1. In addition, claim 8 now refers to the embossing of grooves in "the required position", so as to emphasise that the apparatus is uniquely adapted to producing cigarettes according to claim 1. This is significant in view of my argument that the apparatus claim should be allowed in the same patent. The argument on this and other points can be seen in the response.

Our debit note is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



J.H. BASS

Enc: Copy response and amendment

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